

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DOHA 00561 080932Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 FEA-01
PA-01 PRS-01 COM-02 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
EPG-02 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06 OES-07
SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 /139 W
-----081243Z 083820 /40

R 071240Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY DOHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2572

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 0561

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG OPEC QA

SUBJECT: QATARI OIL MINISTER DENIES STATING THAT GOQ WILL
HIKE OIL PRICES FIVE PERCENT IN JULY

1. GOQ'S LOQUACIOUS MINISTER OF FINANCE AND PETROLEUM SHAYKH

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ABDUL AZIZ BIN KHALIFA AL THANI HAS VOCIFEROUSLY DENIED STATING

THAT QATARIS WOULD HIKE OIL PRICES FIVE PERCENT AS OF JULY.
DENIAL ISSUED THROUGH QATAR NEWS AGENCY ON MAY 5 AND CARRIED BY
LOCAL MEDIA MAY 6 AND 7. ABDUL AZIZ FRAMED HIS DENIAL IN CONTEXT
OF HIS EFFORTS AND THOSE OF OTHER OPEC MEMBERS TO ACHIEVE
SINGLE OIL PRICE. HE NOTED THAT ANY FURTHER PRICE INCREASE

WOULD RUN COUNTER TO THESE EFFORTS.

2. ABDUL AZIZ' DENIAL NOTWITHSTANDING, HE DID INDEED CLEARLY STATE THAT GOQ WOULD RAISE PRICES BY FIVE PERCENT IN JULY DURING MAY 4 PRESS CONFERENCE IN CAIRO AT END OF OAPEC MEETING WHICH ABDUL AZIZ CHAIRED. ACCORDING QATAR NEWS AGENCY BULLETIN OF MAY 5, ABDUL AZIZ "STRESSED THAT QATAR WAS COMMITTED TO THE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED LAST DEC AT THE OPEC MINISTERIAL COUNCIL PROVIDING FOR A FIVE PERCENT INCREASE IN THE OIL PRICES AS OF NEXT JULY." WIRE SERVICES APPARENTLY PICKED UP THIS STATEMENT AND PLAYED IT BACK, MUCH TO ABDUL AZIZ' AND GOQ'S DISTRESS.

3. ABDUL AZIZ ALSO HELD FORTH AT GREAT LENGTH ON OIL AFFAIRS IN LONG INTERVIEW WITH BEIRUT DAILY "AL ANWAR", RELEASED HERE MAY 5. IT WAS USUAL BOILERPLATE, AND THOSE HARDY SOULS UNINTERESTED IN HIS IMMORTAL WORKS CAN OBTAIN DETAILS FROM FBIS.

4. COMMENT: ABDUL AZIZ HAS A BAD CASE OF FOOT-IN--MOUTH DISEASE. AMIR AND OTHER SENIOR GOQ OFFICIALS HAVE REPEATEDLY ADVISED HIM TO CLAM UP, BUT HE HAS BEEN UNABLE TO RESIST PRESS ATTENTION GIVEN HIM IN HIS CURRENT CAPACITY AS OPEC PRESIDENT AND OAPEC CHARIMAN. WE UNDERSTAND THAT HIS CONSTANT PUBLIC COMMENTS ON OPEC SITUATION HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY IRRITATING TO SAUDIS, WITH WHOM GOQ HAS HAD ENOUGH PROBLEMS ON OIL PRICE QUESTION WITHOUT THIS ADDITIONAL BURDEN. WE HAVE QUERIED ABDUL AZIZ ON NUMBER OF OCCASIONS DURING PAST WEEKS ON GOQ'S POSITION RE SCHEDULED FIVE PERCENT JULY 1 OIL PRICE INCREASE BY ELEVEN. HE HAS DECLINED TO RESPOND SPECIFICALLY, REPLYING THAT IT HIS HOPE THAT SINGLE PRICE FORMULA WILL BE WORKED OUT BEFORE THAT TIME.
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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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